

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of February 26 - March 2, 2007**

1. **Officers in Training:** On Friday, February 23, 2007, Sgt. Hammond and Detective Conrad attended a training seminar titled "A Child is Missing Alert Program" sponsored by Greenbelt City Police and Prince George's Community College. On Monday, February 26, Lt. Cipperly, Lt. Collington, D/Sgt. Poole, D/Cpl. Cannatella, D/PFC Conrad, Sgt. Skibicki, Sgt. Frishkorn, Cpl. Collins, Cpl. Smith, PFC Pederson, Pvt. Hubley, Ms. Diana Dean and Ms. Lakya Coles attended a virtual training related to crime scene processing which was conducted in the council chambers. On February 28, Ms. Mary Kendall attended an Electronic Grant Training coordinated by GOCCP. Pvt. Hubley was detailed to the Criminal Investigations Division to complete his final phase of FTO training. Upon completion, Lt. Cipperly will complete the required paperwork to clear Pvt. Hubley from the Field Training Program. *(Police)*

2. **Pedestrian Safety:** On Monday, Feb. 26, Gretchen Hilburger, in collaboration with Erwin Mack of the Takoma-Langley CDA, delivered a presentation about CSAFE, the CDA and pedestrian safety to the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board. *(Police)*

3. Officers in Community & Organizational Meetings:

- On Tuesday, February 27, Chief Ricucci and Capt. Coursey attended a community meeting with residents of Takoma, D.C. and members of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Dept. Chief Ricucci had the opportunity to meet with Commander Burton of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Dept. 4th District and spoke at length about issues which concerns residence on both the Maryland/D.C. neighborhoods surrounding Takoma Park. Chief Ricucci also met with Sgt. Holloway, WMATA Metro Transit Police who is the agency's police liaison for the Takoma Park area.

- On Wednesday, February 28, Chief Ricucci and Capt. Coursey attended a Council of Governments, Regional Chiefs meeting where Chief Ricucci met at length with Chief Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Department of Police, and Chief Polly Hanson, WMATA Transit Police Department. On Thursday, March 1, Lt. Cipperly, D/Sgt Poole, Pvt. Hubley, Cpl. Smith attended the CSAFE HEAT Team meeting coordinated by Ms. Mary Kendall.

- On Friday, March 2, Capt. Coursey attended a meeting relating to the Montgomery County Public Inebriate initiative. This initiative is a collaboration between Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Department of Police and The Takoma Park Police Department. This is a pilot program which will form team members to assist members of the community who are found to be severely inebriated in public and are willing to obtain medical assistance and support for their intoxication. *(Police)*

4. **Read Across America:** On Friday, March 2, Chief Ricucci, Sgt Gilbert, Cpl. John, Cpl. Smith, Det. Conrad, Ms. Dean, Ms. Pullet, Dsp. Gurrini and Ms. Allen volunteered to participate in Read Across America which is being celebrated at Piney Branch Elementary School. Volunteers will be reading story books to students in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. *(Police)*

5. **Arrest Warrants (Wards 5 and 6):** This week, the Criminal Investigations Division obtained 6 arrest warrants pursuant to on-going investigations - three (3) related to residential burglaries, one (1) in the X-Ray sector , and two (2) in the William sector, and three (3) related to theft from automobiles in the William sector. All 3 thefts from auto were linked to Troy Hackett, a 55 year old Silver Spring Resident. *(Police)*

6. A Criminal Investigation: Pursuant to an on-going criminal investigation, investigators have charged Jean Wesley Saitilma, a 34 year old Takoma Park resident, with weapons charges relating to the March 1st report of gunfire in the 600 block of Houston Avenue in Takoma Park. Saitilma is being held at the Montgomery County Detention Center pending a bond review. As of this date, no victims were located or identified. Investigators believe that there is a second suspect associated with this incident and believed to be operating a light colored Chevy Caprice-style vehicle with chrome rims. The vehicle may also have window and body damage from gunfire. The investigation is on-going. *(Police)*

7. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 1, 2, 3, & 4): Officers conducted at least 178 traffic stops this week, 161 of which ended in written citations and 3 impounds. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire, Flower, Maple and Takoma Avenues. *(Police)*

8. THIS Saturday - Vote for Art Project (City-wide): Remember the campaign signs that sprung up across Takoma Park during the election season? Here is your chance to create a "new" campaign slogan about social issues and causes you care about using recycled election signs and materials. Vote for Art - sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts & Humanities Commission in partnership with the Center for the New American Dream - will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2007 from 1 PM to 3 PM at Heffner Park Community Center on 42 Oswego Avenue. Blank signs and art supplies will be provided to participants with the finished signs - and your message - revealed on neighborhood lawns throughout Takoma Park on March 13, 2007. The day was chosen due to its national significance as Arts Advocacy Day, which aims to bring together cultural and civic groups nationwide. Prizes will be awarded for a variety of categories. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Wards 5 and 4): Tenants residing at 625 Houston Avenue and 127 Lee Avenue have received notices that their 3 unit and 6 unit rental properties, respectively, are being sold. To date, the properties do not have third party contracts. The asking price for 625 Houston Avenue is \$529,900 and \$750,000 for 127 Lee Avenue. The city has sent letters to the tenants advising them of their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase law and a request to contact the landlord-tenant office if they are interested in exercising those rights. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Rent Reimbursements to Tenants (City-wide): One of the primary responsibilities of the Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs is to monitor the Rent Stabilization Law. In reviewing annual rent reports submitted by landlords and randomly surveying rents at various rental facilities, it was found that a number of tenants were being charged more than the allowable rent for their rental unit. Municipal infractions citations are often issued to the owners and a rollback and reimbursement of the rent is required. Rent rollback currently total \$2600. For more information or to request that the rents at a particular rental facility be surveyed, please contact Jean Kerr at (301) 891-7216. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Flower Piney Branch Master Plan Workshop - Tuesday, March 6 (Ward 5): The second in a series of Master Plan workshops which will focus on the intersection of Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30 to 8:30 pm at El Golfo Restaurant (8739 Flower Avenue). The purpose of the this workshop is to learn about the Master Plan and zoning for the commercial properties in the City of Takoma Park and to identify small scale projects which could be undertaken by the City. For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner, at IlonaB@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Safe Routes to School Grant Award: We received notification from the State this week that the City has been awarded grant funds in the amount of \$149,100 for a variety of programming targeted towards increasing the number of children walking safely to and from school. For additional information, please contact Associate Planner David Suls at DavidS@takomagov.org. (*Housing and Community Development*)

13. Here for the Long Run: The following people was recognized at the Winter Employee Appreciation Day for their many years of service with the City of Takoma Park:
- 5 Years : Kimley Mannix, PW; Debra Haiduven, Rec; Douglas Malarkey, PD; Eric Mueller, PD; Cynthia Conrad, PD; Michelle Holmes, PD; Sofia Visurraga, Admin; Henry Sorto, IS; Jarvalin Cooper, PD; Wreh Jalla, Rec
- 10 Years: Troy Fingal, PW; Richard Poole, PD; Alex McDonnell, Rec; Jerome Erwin, PD; Lonni Moffet, Communications; Karen Hampton, HR; Lucy Scott, LIB; Michael Collins, PD
- 15 Years: Linda Fisher, PD; Mark Hammond, PD; Keith Largent, PD; Edward Harrison, PW
- 35 Years: Doris Jean Rodgers, PD
(*Human Resources*)

14. Legislative Session Activity: Staff has been in Annapolis three days this week, sharing the City's position on a number of proposed bills in the Maryland General Assembly. Bill hearings will continue for the next two weeks or so, and then the Senate and House of Delegates will begin working to wind up its session. Decisions on bond bill requests will likely be made in early April. The session ends April 9th. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

15. Electronics and Computer Recycling Event (Citywide): The City will be holding this annual E-Cycle event on Saturday, April 21 from 10AM to 1:30PM. The drop-off will be in the Library parking lot of Philadelphia Avenue. Accepted items include any computer related equipment, telephones, cell phones, cameras, radios, TVs (non console type), stereos, tape players, scanners, copiers, fax machines, surge protectors and CD players. For questions, call Public Works at 301-891-7633. (*Public Works*)

16. From the Communications Office: The March edition of the City newsletter is now available and is posted to the City website. City TV staff will be videotaping the Y.E.S. league basketball championship game tonight March 2, 2007 at Piney Branch Elementary School. (*City TV*)

17. Black History Month: The Afternoon Addition held a Black History Month Presentation on February 27, at 3 p.m. Making their first appearance, the Afternoon Addition Step Group performed a very tight routine. The staff and students in the program shared part of the "I Have a Dream" speech, as well as read and recited poems from their favorite black poets. (*Recreation*)

18. Earth Treks: The Family Fun Trip on February 24 was a big hit. The Recreation Department took nine people rock climbing at Earth Treks in Rockville. They learned how to put on a harness and tie knots to prepare for their climb. The parents also learned how to belay for the child. The next trip is to The Gardens Ice House Arena in Laurel on March 24. (*Recreation*)

19. Whimsical Whimsey: On February 27, the Recreation Department welcomed "Nicolo Whimsey" for the Fun Day Program. Nicolo entertained the kids with stories, poems, and juggling of swords, balls, and pins. After the performance he taught the kids how to juggle, first with scarves, then with tennis balls. Nicolo also introduced them to plate spinning. The next Fun Day Trip is scheduled for March 27, to the Maryland Science Center. (*Recreation*)

